

Approved 3/19/15

BOARD OF HEALTH

BOROUGH OF TENAFLY, NEW JERSEY
BOARD MEETING, January 15, 2015

The meeting of the Board of Health was held on the above date. Mr. Howard Bader, President, read the Board's compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law and called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present: Howard Bader, Dr. Etta Frankel, Dr. Daniel Feit, Maria Xylas, Mark Alvarez, Ruby Pujols, Registered Environmental Health Specialist and Sam Yanovich, Health Officer

Absent: Dr. Michael Basista, Berton Greenberg

Also present: Council Liaison Maxim Basch, Board of Health Secretary Valerie Nicolosi

A motion was made to approve the minutes of November 13, 2014. A voice vote carried the motion. All voted in favor; none were opposed.

OATHS OF OFFICE

The following individuals read the Oath of Office for their respective positions:

Mark Alvarez	Member, Tenafly Board of Health
Councilman Maxim Basch	Council Representative, Tenafly Board of Health

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2015

Mr. Yanovich presided over the election of officers.

Nominations for President:

A motion was made by Dr. Feit and seconded by Mrs. Xylas to nominate Mr. Howard Bader as President of the Tenafly Board of Health. The nominations were closed. A voice vote carried the motion unanimously. Mr. Bader is the President of the 2015 Tenafly Board of Health.

Nominations for Vice President:

A motion was made by Dr. Feit and seconded by Mrs. Xylas to nominate Dr. Etta Frankel as Vice President of the Tenafly Board of Health. The nominations were closed. A voice vote carried unanimously. Dr. Frankel is the Vice President of the 2015 Tenafly Board of Health.

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OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Nicolosi gave a brief overview of the 2015 Budget which was submitted to the Mayor & Council for approval. Board members had received a copy of the budget for review. The budget will reflect an increase in the line item for the offering of the high dose flu vaccine to Tenaflly senior citizens. This program was very successful last year.

There was a brief discussion regarding the renewal of the HARP contract and the Mid-Bergen Regional Health Commission contract. Both contracts have slight rate increases. Mr. Yanovich gave a brief synopsis of the coverage for each contract. The services provided by these contracts are mandated by the State of New Jersey. Mrs. Nicolosi and Borough Administrator Jewel Thompson-Chin had met with representatives from the County of Bergen in regard to contracts for the same coverage.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the following contracts for the 2015 calendar year:

- HARP (Hackensack Awareness Regional Program) \$17,622.00
- Mid-Bergen Regional Health Commission \$45,592.00
- Cooper Pest Solutions (rat control services) \$1,860.00

A voice vote carried the motion. All voted in favor: none were opposed.

It was noted that the Borough has contracted with the County of Bergen for Animal Control Services for two (2) years. The contract amount is for 2015 is \$18,399.76. The Borough also has a shared services agreement with the Borough of Little Ferry for Registrar of Vital Statistics services. The cost of that contract is \$15,000.00 per year.

Pet licensing will be handled by the Office of the Borough Clerk. Business licenses are still handled by the Building Department. All other contracts, purchase orders, etc., are handled by Mrs. Nicolosi in the Administration office. Letters were mailed to local veterinarians for continuance in the rabies program for the Borough.

NEW BUSINESS

There was a brief discussion regarding enacting an ordinance to charge reinspection fees when a business receives a conditional or unsatisfactory rating. The former health inspector, Martha Rogalski, had suggested this to the board prior to her leaving the Borough. She forwarded an email with the ordinance adopted by her new employer, the Borough of Ramsey. The board would like to institute these fees for the Borough of Tenaflly. Board members would like to see a letter forwarded to all businesses in the Borough advising them of the new ordinance. It was indicated that the process to get an ordinance enacted would take several months. Board members would like to see the fees collected offset the cost of the contract for Mid-Bergen

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Regional Health Commission. Mrs. Nicolosi will need to reach out to both the Borough Attorney and Chief Financial Officer to review procedures for a new ordinance and collection of fees.

REPORTS

Ms. Pujols, Registered Environmental Health Specialist, reviewed her December 2014 report with the board. Inspections were done on multiple restaurants with most receiving a satisfactory rating and two receiving a conditional rating. She did five (5) spot checks during the month. She handled complaints regarding smoke, bats, and dog bites. Ms. Pujols also investigated a property in foreclosure and reviewed kitchen drawings from Brightview Senior Living.

Health Officer Sam Yanovich reviewed his report with the board. The level of flu in the northeast region of New Jersey is at the “high” level. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported that deaths from flu and pneumonia reached an epidemic level, however, the figure is declining.

He gave a brief update on a clinical trial of an Ebola vaccine developed by Merck, which is being conducted at a hospital in Geneva, Switzerland. Final results of the trial are expected by March 2015.

He noted that a report entitled “A Study of New Jersey’s Local Public Health System”, conducted by the Office of Public Health Infrastructure within the New Jersey Department of Health, concluded that regional health commissions deliver the lowest average cost per capita for their jurisdictions at \$12.75. The long-standing partnership between Tenaflly and Mid-Bergen Regional Health Commission, in conjunction with the high level of professionalism offered by the HARP nursing agency, and the array of public health services brought to the Borough, evidences a reasonable return for the taxpaying public by keeping the per capita cost well below the \$12.75 indicated in the study.

Mr. Yanovich advised the board that Mid Bergen Regional Health Commission is working towards attaining the highest level of quality and performance for the public seeking National Public Health Accreditation status this year.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Nicolosi will re-distribute information regarding the Borough’s Defibrillator Inventory and maintenance procedures. It was unclear if the Tenaflly Nature Center had a defibrillator on site. It would be the board’s recommendation that this entity purchase a unit if they do not already have one.

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The next meeting of the Board of Health is Thursday, March 19, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. in the Richard D. Wilson Committee Room.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. A voice vote carried the motion. All voted in favor of the motion; none were opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie B. Nicolosi
Board of Health Secretary